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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

OCA 88-2078

23 JUN 1988

The Honorable Louis Stokes
Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Director has asked me to respond to your June 15, 1988 letter concerning the format for the current intelligence updates that are held on Tuesday mornings when Congress is in session.

Indeed, from their inception these briefings have concentrated on current events and, by design, have not included discussions of covert action. If, as indicated in your letter, staff attendance is now going to be limited to those cleared for all covert action programs, we will have no problems in the future responding to questions concerning covert action that might arise from time to time.

Sincerely,


John L. Helgerson
Director of Congressional Affairs

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Executive Secretary

17 Jun 88

Date

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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
 ON INTELLIGENCE
 WASHINGTON, DC 20515-8416

June 15, 1988

Honorable William H. Webster
 Director of Central Intelligence
 Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Judge Webster:

The Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence usually receives a current intelligence briefing given by representatives of your Agency on Tuesday mornings when the House is in session. These briefings are usually well attended and Members find them important. I appreciate your making senior Agency officials available for these briefings.

At these briefings, Members sometimes ask questions requiring answers about ongoing covert actions. Since Agency briefers apparently have been instructed not to refer to covert actions, Members have on occasion received incomplete or misleading responses to their questions.

I want these briefings to be as useful and unrestricted as possible. I also understand the reluctance of Agency officials to discuss covert action operations when they are uncertain whether all staff present are appropriately cleared. Therefore, I intend to limit attendance at future Tuesday morning briefings to staff who are cleared for covert action.

I would appreciate it if you would instruct your officers henceforth to respond fully to Members' questions.

Sincerely,

LOUIS STOKES
 Chairman

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